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Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' Award on Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is a great Tamil Scholar, Poet, Writer, Social Reformer and one of the senior most leaders of this country. He was born on 3rd June 1924 in a small village viz., Thirukuvalai in the erstwhile Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. He started his political career at the age of 18 and got elected to Tamil Nadu Assembly in the year 1957 for the first time. Till date, he is continuing as a Member and became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2006 for the fifth term. He has completed 50 years as a member in the Legislative Assembly. He was the first Chief Minister who enacted a law recognizing inter-caste marriage. During 1989 first time in the Indian history, free electricity to farmers' scheme was also introduced by him and the law pertaining to equal share to unmarried girl was also implemented by him. For the welfare of pregnant women 'Muthulakshmi Reddiyar Scheme', for marriage of poor girls 'Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Scheme' were also introduced by him. To render health facilities to rural poor, he has introduced successfully - 'Varumun Kappom Scheme' throughout Tamil Nadu and lakhs of people were benefited. For helping farmers, he has introduced 'Uzhavar Sandhai' (Farmers' Market) in all taluks. He has announced debt relief for the farmers, implemented subsidized rice Scheme for poor at Rs 1/per

* Treated as laid on the Table

Kilogram, free TV sets for all poor households in the State. He is frontrunner for the reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs in the field of education and employment.

On considering all the social services rendered by him, I urge upon the Union Government to honour him with 'Bharat Ratna'.